Digital Storytelling

Katina Bitsicas, Program Coordinator
bitsicask@missouri.edu

Lee Ann Garrison, Director
School of Visual Studies, College of Arts & Science
102 Swallow Hall
(573) 882-7547
muassvs@missouri.edu (muassvs@missouri.edu)


Nadia Irsheidat, Academic Advisor
irsheidat@missouri.edu

Digital Storytelling within the School of Visual Studies puts storytelling first, and combines this with new and emerging technologies. This interdisciplinary program emphasizes skills in video production, emerging media, animation, video art, writing and critical theory. Like other forms of storytelling, digital storytelling reaches audiences for artistic, educational, and commercial purposes, translating human knowledge and experience into multimedia spaces. Students use technology and the universal art of storytelling to connect and entertain audiences, innovate, and solve human-scale problems. They work to tell stories that stimulate, provoke, and inspire.

Faculty
Assistant Professors K. Bitsicas*, J. Erb*, S.C. Rozier*, J. Shade-Johnson**
Assistant Teaching Professors L Kim*, D. Moore*, N. Potter*
Instructors M. Coleman, M. Lewis

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate
• BA in Digital Storytelling (http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/digitalstorytelling/ba-digital-storytelling/)  
• Minor in Digital Storytelling (http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/digitalstorytelling/minor-digital-storytelling/)  

Graduate
Digital Storytelling faculty work with students admitted to the MFA in Visual Studies offered at the graduate level. For more information on graduate programs in Visual Studies, visit the Graduate tab of Visual Studies (http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/visualstudies/#graduatetext).

DST_VS 1880: Introduction to Digital Media Production
(same as ENGLISH 1880, FILMS_VS 1880, ARTGE_VS 1920, COMMUN 1880). Introduction to concepts and skills for Digital Storytelling, including media literacy and forms of narrative manifested historically and currently across a range of media. This course focuses on theories and concepts that support the critical analysis and creation of contemporary narrative in digital form with particular attention to audio, visual and written communication. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early registration

DST_VS 1880H: Introduction to Digital Media Production - Honors
(same as ENGLISH 1880, FILMS_VS 1880, ARTGE_VS 1920, COMMUN 1880). Introduction to concepts and skills for Digital Storytelling, including media literacy and forms of narrative manifested historically and currently across a range of media. This course focuses on theories and concepts that support the critical analysis and creation of contemporary narrative in digital form with particular attention to audio, visual and written communication. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early registration; Honors eligibility required

DST_VS 2001: Topics in Digital Storytelling
Organized study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3

DST_VS 2005: Topics in Digital Storytelling
Organized study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3

DST_VS 2005H: Topics in Digital Storytelling - Honors
Organized study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only. Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required
Credit Hours: 3

DST_VS 2810: Story Development
(same as COMMUN 2810). In this course students will learn about storytelling across time and media, beginning with definitions and fundamentals of narrative and oral storytelling, theories of narrative and its cultural functions, and basic narrative analysis. The course then turns to the close study of structure, narration, character, plot, action, dialogue, and other narrative elements, with a wide variety of examples and prompts. Throughout the course, students practice the development of their own stories in multiple versions and formats, with attention to the ways that formal structures such as blogs, tweets, podcasts, and scripts affect their storytelling strategies. By the end of the course, students will produce a short shooting script or equivalent project ready for production. Thus, the course functions as preparation for audio-visual production courses in Film Studies, Media Studies, Film and Media Arts, and Digital Storytelling degree programs. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
**Prerequisites:** Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early registration

**DST_VS 2820: Immersive Storytelling**  
(same as THEATR 2220). This class introduces the student to the basic principles of immersive theatre and immersive storytelling. Students learn about the history, practice, theory, and critical issues related to immersive theatre and immersive storytelling, including performance art, environmental theatre, happenings, interactive theatre, site specific performance, installation art, video art, projection art, multimedia, intermediality, mediatedization, 3D video, 360 video, augmented reality, virtual reality, and mixed reality. Projects provide opportunities for experiences in immersive theatre and immersive storytelling.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** DST_VS 1880

**DST_VS 2830: Video Art I**  
Video as a fine art form intersecting with sculpture, experimental filmmaking, and Internet culture. Theoretical and historical knowledge is integrated with studio practice. Students create video works in Adobe Premiere Pro, demonstrating technical ability and aesthetic vision. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880, FILMS_VS 1880, ENGLISH 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920

**Recommended:** ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 2860: Film Themes and Genres**  
(same as ENGLISH 2860, FILMS_VS 2860). Topics (e.g. film noir, African-American filmmakers, food and film, the western) announced at time of registration.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** ENGLISH 1800 or FILMS_VS 1800

**Recommended:** ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 2880: Digital Storytelling Production I**  
(same as ENGLISH 2880, COMMUN 2880). Digital Storytelling Production I teaches agility with digital video technology through applied experiences. Assignments in digital video production emphasize how video narratives are created and how images and audio enhance the structure, mood, and theme of the narrative. Instruction will focus on planning a video production and developing the tools and practices in lighting, sound recording, image capturing, and editing. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880 or ENGLISH 1880 or FILMS_VS 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 or consent of instructor. Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early registration

**DST_VS 2885: Digital Storytelling Animation Production I**  
(same as ENGLISH 2885). Introduction to all aspects of digital animation and elements of the 3D computer animation production pipeline, including story drafting and production planning, polygonal modeling and texturing, rigging, key framing, lighting, compositing rendered images, and editing into a short finished film. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880 or ENGLISH 1880 or FILMS_VS 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 or instructor consent. Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early registration

**DST_VS 3001: Topics in Digital Storytelling**  
Organized study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** Sophomore standing

**DST_VS 3005: Topics in Digital Storytelling**  
Organized study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** Sophomore standing

**DST_VS 3005W: Topics in Digital Storytelling**  
Organized study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** Sophomore standing

**DST_VS 3850: Video Games and Storytelling**  
Video Games and Storytelling explores the interplay between game and story in video game media. Students will play and analyze games, specifically those with strong narratives, and engage with broader theories in literary and visual studies. Texts include video games themselves, as well as a selection of films, fiction, and critical/theoretical resources. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 3855: Documentary Film**  
(same as ENGLISH 3855, FILMS_VS 3855). Surveys the history of documentary film including the development of subgenres, sound and voice over in documentary, re-enactment, ethical issues in documentary film production, and more. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 3860: Special Themes in Digital Storytelling**  
Themes (e.g., Indigenous digital studies, folklore and the internet) announced at time of registration. No more than six hours may be taken in the Special Themes in Digital Storytelling. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 3880: Writing and Theory for Digital Media**  
(same as ENGLISH 3880). Writing and Theory for Digital Media teaches the skills, methods and theoretical frameworks needed to write for new media. Students will study and practice writing for web-based and digital media platforms, including blogs, podcasts, vlogs, and the emerging...
possibilities of locative and interactive media. Assignments emphasize the professional and creative possibilities of new media production. In addition to the hands-on creation for audio, screen-based, networked, and hybrid forms of digital media, students will also read, discuss, and write about work by new media theorists. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880 or ENGLISH 1880 or FILMS_VS 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 or instructor consent. Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early enrollment.  
**Recommended:** Sophomore standing or above; ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 3880W: Writing and Theory for Digital Media - Writing Intensive**  
(same as ENGLISH 3880W). Writing and Theory for Digital Media teaches the skills, methods and theoretical frameworks needed to write for new media. Students will study and practice writing for web-based and digital media platforms, including blogs, podcasts, vlogs, and the emerging possibilities of locative and interactive media. Assignments emphasize the professional and creative possibilities of new media production. In addition to the hands-on creation for audio, screen-based, networked, and hybrid forms of digital media, students will also read, discuss, and write about work by new media theorists. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880 or ENGLISH 1880 or FILMS_VS 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 or instructor consent. Enrollment limited to declared DST majors during early enrollment.  
**Recommended:** Sophomore standing or above; ENGLISH 1000

**DST_VS 3885: Audio Storytelling**  
Students in this course explore the skills, methods and theoretical frameworks needed to produce audio for new media and to understand the relationship between audio and digital culture. Students will study and practice writing and producing for web-based and digital media platforms. Assignments emphasize the professional and creative possibilities of new media production with an emphasis on audio. In addition to the hands-on creation of audio for radio, podcast, as well as screen-based, networked, and hybrid forms of digital media, students will also read, discuss, and write about work by producers and radio historians and theorists. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880/ENGLISH 1880/FILMS_VS 1880/ARTGE_VS 1920 or consent of instructor

**DST_VS 3885W: Audio Storytelling - Writing Intensive**  
Students in this course explore the skills, methods and theoretical frameworks needed to produce audio for new media and to understand the relationship between audio and digital culture. Students will study and practice writing and producing for web-based and digital media platforms. Assignments emphasize the professional and creative possibilities of new media production with an emphasis on audio. In addition to the hands-on creation of audio for radio, podcast, as well as screen-based, networked, and hybrid forms of digital media, students will also read, discuss, and write about work by producers and radio historians and theorists. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880/ENGLISH 1880/FILMS_VS 1880/ARTGE_VS 1920 or consent of instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Prerequisites details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DST_VS 4005</td>
<td>Topics in Digital Storytelling</td>
<td>Advanced study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sophomore standing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DST_VS 4005W: Topics in Digital Storytelling - Humanities - Writing Intensive**  
Advanced study of selected topics in Digital Storytelling. Subject may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** Sophomore standing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Prerequisites details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DST_VS 4810</td>
<td>Film Theory</td>
<td>This course explores contemporary trends in film theory. Topics may include: psychoanalysis, feminism, Marxism, cultural studies, queer theory, audience and star studies, post colonialism, among others.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGLISH 1000 and ENGLISH 1800 or FILMS_VS 1800; junior standing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DST_VS 4830: Video Art II**  
Video as a fine art form intersecting with sculpture, experimental filmmaking, and Internet culture. Theoretical and historical knowledge is integrated with studio practice. Students create more advanced video works in Adobe Premiere Pro, demonstrating technical ability and aesthetic vision. Projections and video installation works will be emphasized. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** DST_VS 1880, FILMS_VS 1880, ENGLISH 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 and DST_VS 2830 or ARTGE_VS 4030

**DST_VS 4840: Culture and Media**  
(same as ENGLISH 4840, FILMS_VS 4840). Topics (e.g. Cinema and Imperialism, Indigenous Media, Ethnographic Documentary) announced at time of registration.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** ENGLISH 1000 and ENGLISH 1800 or FILMS_VS 1800; Sophomore standing

**DST_VS 4880: Digital Storytelling Production II**  
(same as ENGLISH 4880, COMMUN 4880). Digital Storytelling Production II introduces students to advanced techniques in digital storytelling production, while further developing skills in script writing, storyboarding, Adobe Premiere Pro, and video production with DSLR cameras. Assignments in digital video production emphasize how video narratives are created and how images and audio enhance the structure, mood, and theme of the narrative. Instruction will focus on planning a video production and developing the tools and practices in lighting, sound recording, image capturing, and editing. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3  
Prerequisites: ENGLISH 1000 and DST_VS 1880 or ENGLISH 1880 or FILMS_VS 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 and DST_VS 2880 or ENGLISH 2880 and sophomore standing, or consent of instructor. Enrollment is limited to declared DST majors during early registration

DST_VS 4885: Digital Storytelling Animation Production II  
Advanced instruction in various aspects of digital animation and elements of the 3D computer animation production pipeline, including story drafting and production planning, polygonal modeling and texturing, rigging, key framing, lighting, compositing rendered images, and editing into a short finished film. Graded on A-F basis only.  
Credit Hours: 3  
Prerequisites: ENGLISH 1000 and DST 1880 or ENGLISH 1880 or FILMS_VS 1880 or ARTGE_VS 1920 and DST_VS 2885 or ENGLISH 2885 and sophomore standing, or consent of instructor. Enrollment limited to DST majors during early registration

DST_VS 4930: Digital Storytelling Practicum  
This course provides an opportunity for experiential learning in digital storytelling practice. Students will receive hands-on training through an intensive master class. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on S/U basis only.  
Credit Hour: 1-6  
Prerequisites: Instructor's consent

DST_VS 4940: Digital Storytelling Internship  
Students work in an agency or institution using their digital storytelling skills for one to three credit hours. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on an S/U basis only.  
Credit Hour: 1-3  
Prerequisites: Program consent

DST_VS 4955: Independent Research in Digital Storytelling  
Development of a carefully considered research project under close supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Graded on A-F basis only.  
Credit Hour: 1-3  
Prerequisites: Instructor consent required

DST_VS 4970: Digital Storytelling Capstone  
For students in their senior year who have completed the core requirements for the Digital Storytelling program, this course focuses on advanced studies in the field and a major project involving the processes of selection, research, and production or writing leading to its completion. Course also includes a large professional development component. Enrollment limited to declared DST majors only, unless by instructor consent. Graded on A-F basis only.  
Credit Hours: 3  
Prerequisites: DST_VS 1880, and DST_VS 2880 or DST_VS 2885 or DST_VS 2830, and DST_VS 4880 or DST_VS 4885 or DST_VS 4830